

**MINUTES**  
**St. Louis County Board of Commissioners Solid Waste Subcommittee**  
**Northland Office Building,**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Floor Environmental Services Conference Room #118**  
**Virginia, Minnesota**  
**April 25, 2011**

**Call to Order:** Chair Raukar called the meeting to order at 11:19 a.m.

**Members Present:** Commissioner Mike Forsman, Commissioner Keith Nelson, Commissioner Steve Raukar, and Commissioner Peg Sweeney.

**Others Present:** Jim Nephew, St. Louis County Attorney's Office, Diane Hildreth, Mark St. Lawrence, Terry Soderberg, and Ted Troolin Environmental Services Department; Tom Schlotec and Chris Strub Northern Minnesota Recycling; Fred Doran and Cami Van Abel, SAIC Energy, Environment, & Infrastructure LLC (formerly R.W. Beck).

**Approval of Minutes:** Upon motion by Commissioner Nelson and second by Commissioner Sweeney the minutes of the March 28, 2011, Solid Waste Subcommittee meeting were approved as presented.

**Ongoing Business:** Chair Raukar stated that there will be a change in the order of the agenda items. Item C, Landfill Gas Report will be moved in front of Item B, Solid Waste Tipping and Service Fees.

**Director's Update:** Troolin verbally updated the Solid Waste Subcommittee (SWSC) on current legislative items. Landfill equipment being exempt from sales tax is under review. E-waste language and the amount of E-waste private companies take back is an item the Department will be following again this legislative session. At this time, SCORE monies will remain unchanged from the previous legislative session. Department staff has been contacted by a local news station regarding the RLF road project.

**Regional Landfill Gas Report:** Mark St. Lawrence introduced Fred Doran and Cami Van Abel, SAIC. Van Abel gave a PowerPoint presentation and an evaluation handout on Landfill Gas Management options for the Regional Landfill. Van Abel reviewed the landfill gas management options available, construction costs, and annual operation and maintenance costs. Van Abel discussed projected revenues from carbon offset credits and electricity generation, and the estimated extended life of the landfill. Van Abel discussed the new Environmental Protection Agency tailoring rule with the group. St. Louis County would fall under this rule in 2027 and would require an active gas system be installed at that time. SAIC will issue a final report to the Department by the end of April. Discussion from the group followed.

**Solid Waste Tipping and Service Fees:** Troolin gave a PowerPoint presentation to the group on the long range funding for the Department and the proposed increases to 2012 solid waste tipping and service fees. Troolin summarized the balance of Fund 600 for the past 15 years and reviewed the 10 year capital plan and major capital projects with the group. The total balance of fund 600 at the end of 2010 was \$15,897,210. Troolin reviewed the proposed 2012 tipping fee increases and the revenue impact from the proposed tip fee increases with the group. The Department is recommending to raise the tipping fees for 2012 on Mixed Solid Waste (MSW) from \$39/ton to \$42/ton; Mixed industrial waste from \$39/ton to \$42/ton; Demolition from \$34/ton to \$36/ton; and Contaminated Demolition from

\$39/ton to \$55/ton. The proposed tip fee recommendations would increase revenue by \$180,000/year. The Department proposed to raise the residential service fee from \$58/year to \$60/year; raise the seasonal service fee from \$19.72/year to \$20/year; and commercial properties which vary from \$58 - \$174/year to \$60 - \$180/year. The proposed service fee recommendations would increase revenue by \$80,000/year. The Department feels these increases are necessary to maintain a sustainable fund balance.

Commissioner Sweeney made a motion to accept the proposed tipping and service fee increases and the motion was supported by Commissioner Forsman. Commissioner Nelson would like the proposed tipping fee increase separated from the proposed service fee increase. Commissioner Sweeney and Commissioner Forsman support this request. At this time, the group discussed the proposed tipping fee increases. Commissioner Nelson proposed an amendment to increase the MSW tipping fee to \$43.50/ton. Commissioner Sweeney does not support this amendment and stated she stays with the \$42/ton recommendation of the Department. Commissioner Forsman supports the amendment to increase the MSW tipping fee to \$43.50/ton. This would increase the cost to an average household an additional \$6.75 per year. Seeing no further discussion on the tipping fee increase, Chair Raukar asked for all those in favor of the amendment to increase the tipping fee to \$43.50/ton. Commissioner Sweeney had the only nay vote. The amendment passed 3 to 1.

Chair Raukar stated that the service fee recommendation is still on the table and is now open for discussion. At this time, the service fee increases as recommended above by the Department was moved by Sweeney and supported by Forsman. Discussion from the group followed. The Department will review how the service fees are currently being assessed and provide the Commissioners with proposed incremental fee increases and the impact to the revenue of Fund 600 at a future SWSC meeting. Discussion on adding a multiple dwelling category for parcels with more than one residence or business in addition to the residential, seasonal and commercial properties categories followed. Commissioner Nelson proposed an amendment to the above service fee motion to add a multi dwelling category to the Solid Waste service fees. Discussion on the amount of the service fee for a multi dwelling category took place. Commissioner Sweeney declined the motion to add this amendment. At this time, Commissioner Nelson made a motion to add a multi dwelling category to the Solid Waste service fees as a stand alone. This motion was supported by Commissioner Forsman. The Department will compile a fee schedule for the multi dwelling category based on a service fee of half the residential fee. This fee schedule proposal will be given to the Commissioners for review. The option to add a new multi dwelling category and the proposed service fees is a recommendation only. If recommended by the SWSC, this item will move forward for discussion at the Committee of the Whole meeting. At this time Commissioner Sweeney pulled her support for the original motion on the service fees. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to move the service fee that is currently in place with the addition of the Departments assessment of multiple units at the reduced fee of half the residential fee. Discussion followed. Chair Raukar tabled any action at this time on the service fees. The Department will bring updated information on categories and service fee rates to a future SWSC meeting. Troolin stated that the Department would need an ordinance change for fees charged on mobile homes within a mobile home park. The motion to add a new category to address the multiple dwelling issues on the service fees with no increase to the existing service fee categories was moved by Commissioner Nelson. Chair Raukar clarified the discussion of the service fees for the group. The SWSC is not adopting the proposed service fee schedule. The Commissioners are asking the Department to bring forward a new service fee schedule with inclusion of multiple dwellings/businesses. Chair Raukar stated that no action is needed to accomplish this request. The Commissioners will not act on this item today and service fees will be added as an action item on the June SWSC agenda. Chair Raukar made a directive motion to this effect and it was supported by Commissioner Forsman. There was no further discussion. Chair Raukar asked for all those in favor of the directive motion on service fees. Commissioner Sweeney had the only nay vote. The directive motion passed 3 to 1.

**Recycling Facility/Haulage Contract:** Troolin updated the SWSC on the status of the recycling facility/haulage contract. The current contract expires September 30, 2011. There are a total of four two year contract extensions available. The contract extension does not require action from the SWSC board. The Department is continuing its discussions with Northern Minnesota Recycling about potential amendments to the contract regarding ongoing building repair. Troolin will update the SWSC on future developments as the negotiation process continues.

**Public Comment Period:** There were no comments from the general public at this meeting.

**Scheduling Next Meeting:** The next Solid Waste Subcommittee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjourn:** The Commissioners voted all in favor to adjourn the meeting at 12:43 p.m.